



## NOTICE TO THE BAR

This notice advises practitioners of a change in the court's enforcement policy regarding the filing of signature pages for the bankruptcy petition. The court's Fifth Amended Order Authorizing Electronic Case Filing provides that the Debtor's signature on the bankruptcy petition may be indicated by any of the following methods:

- a. submitting a scanned copy of the originally signed petition;
- b. attaching a scanned copy of the originally signed signature page(s) to the electronic document; or
- c. separately submitting a scanned copy of the originally signed signature page(s) immediately after the electronic filing of the signed document.

Effective February 15, 2006, the court will strictly enforce these requirements. Accordingly, if court staff discovers during its review of the filing that these requirements have not been fulfilled, the petition will be stricken and the case will be dismissed without further notice or hearing.

The court regrets that it has become necessary to so rigorously enforce these requirements. The previous practice of issuing an order to show cause when the signature pages had not been filed, thereby giving counsel a reminder and a second opportunity to submit the required documents, was originally intended as a courtesy to the bar to accommodate what the court perceived as an oversight in submitting a document that was already in existence. Unfortunately, the court has discovered far too many instances in which attorneys are filing cases before their clients have actually signed the petition. They appear to be taking advantage of the court's practice to improperly file these cases and are using the extra time allotted by the show cause orders as an opportunity for the documentation to catch up with what they have done.

Please contact me at 574-968-2230 if you need any additional information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Christopher M. DeToro  
Clerk of Court

Dated: January 25, 2006